



St. Mary's

Kidsnews

Newsletter of St. Mary's Healthcare System for Children • SUMMER 2009

Homeward Bound: St. Mary's Home Care Program



Little Emerson Thomas Frank, grandson of St. Mary's Vice President Lynn Gardiner Seim, MSN, RN, was born 10 1/2 weeks before his due date, weighing in at just over 3 pounds. Emerson's mother Elizabeth, a pediatric intensive care nurse at Morgan Stanley Children's Hospital of NewYork-Presbyterian, knew the long road that lay ahead. Infections, respiratory issues, and tube feedings were no longer reserved for her work life. Each day presented new challenges and new worries for the new family.



Born 10 1/2 weeks premature, tiny baby Emerson shown on his first day of life has grown into a thriving, healthy five-month old.

When it was finally time to bring eight-week-old Emerson home, Elizabeth and husband David engaged the services of St. Mary's Community Programs. "As a PICU nurse, it was the obvious choice. I knew first hand of St. Mary's reputation for providing excellent care while working at Morgan Stanley," explains Elizabeth, who added the two organizations often work together to provide a continuum of care for children.

St. Mary's firmly believes that when possible, home is the most appropriate care delivery setting for children and their families.

St. Mary's pioneered the first Home Care program for children in New York over 25 years ago, and today still remains the largest and most comprehensive provider of services to children with special needs. Over the years, we have enhanced our programs to include both long- and short-term services through a vast network of home and community programs.

"More than 40% of the children St. Mary's cares for have complications stemming from premature birth," explains Lynn Seim. "Yet, I never imagined that my own family would benefit from the extraordinary services St. Mary's provides."

Our programs include combinations of professional healthcare services and life assistance services that are tailored to meet the needs of our families. Services may include medical care, nursing care, rehabilitation

>Continued on page 2

Najee: St. Mary's Miracle Child

Spend a little time with 16-year old Najee and he's bound to break out in song. An aspiring rapper, Najee adds rhyme and rhythm to his thoughts, his conversations, and even his physical therapy sessions at St. Mary's. Quick to offer a joke, a rap, or a rendition of a Michael Jackson song, Najee has a style all his own.

Najee was admitted to St. Mary's renowned Traumatic Brain Injury Program last year to help address the effects of Wyburn-Mason Syndrome, a rare vascular disorder of the brain and eye that leaves him susceptible to stroke and aneurysm.



Najee receives medical and rehabilitative care in St. Mary's renowned Traumatic Brain Injury Program.

While at St. Mary's, Najee receives intensive physical therapy to help regain mobility and occupational therapy to navigate activities of daily living. Our family-centered philosophy helps ensure that his family is kept involved and well trained to care for his special needs – all of which were put to the test on a recent family trip to Disney World made possible by St. Mary's and Make A Wish Foundation. Najee and his family boarded the plane

along with a host of medical equipment and supplies for a trip of a lifetime, and returned with a whole lot to sing about.

Presidents Message



It will never work. It can't be done. Those were the incredulous remarks by colleagues in the mid-1970s when told of St.

Mary's plans to care for medically complex children at home. The concept challenged the prevailing thoughts of the time – to build institutions for those who require advanced care. The technology needs alone were daunting; ventilators and computers were the size of rooms, a far cry from today's hand-held devices.

But we knew the demand for our services was growing and building more institutions was not necessarily the answer. We envisioned a new model of care where children could participate in daily family life. We knew from experience that children heal and thrive when surrounded by family. We knew we could provide the same high level of care and professionalism at home. And despite a host of obstacles, we knew the idea not only had merit, but would eventually gain traction as a cost-effective and outcomes-driven care delivery method for children.

With the support of the Department of Health, St. Mary's was initially given the go ahead to care for 50 children at home in 1983. Today, St. Mary's cares for 4,000 children each day through a variety of innovative Home Care and Community programs. Technology now literally fits in the palm of the hands of parents and caregivers. Ventilators are portable and medical records can be shared electronically at the point of service.

To those formerly doubting Toms out there, I am happy to say, "It worked and yes, it can be done!"

Keep aspiring,

Burton Grebin, MD
President and Chief Executive Officer

St. Marys Champions

Get Involved!

Want to make a difference in the lives of children with special needs? The Adult Volunteer Program at St. Mary's enables community members who are at least 25 years of age to become involved in a variety of activities, such as working directly with the children in recreational activities, tutoring, friendly visiting, or classroom assistance. Volunteers can also offer their time and talents in one of our offices, on the patient units, or on a special short-term assignment.

To learn more about volunteering at St. Mary's, please call 718-281-8684. You'll be glad you did.

Homeward Bound: St. Mary's Home Care Program (Cont.)

therapies, personal care assistance, home health aides, wound care, medication management, pain management, disease education and management, pastoral care, complementary care, equipment needs, home modifications, and coordination of care. From Early Intervention for developmental delays, maternal and infant care, and short-term rehabilitation therapy to chronic and more complex medical conditions, St. Mary's offers services to meet the evolving needs of children and their families.

In the case of baby Emerson, feeding was the main focus of concern. Nurses visited the family's home to offer care and support while monitoring the baby's growth and weight. Having graduated from tube feeding to bottles and nursing, particular attention was paid to making certain the baby was getting enough nutrition without expending too much energy. As preemies have a greater propensity to aspirate during feeding, Occupational Therapy provided expert feeding evaluation and guidance to ensure Emerson was able to suck and swallow without consequence.

Today at almost five months, Emerson and family are thriving. Elizabeth is finally able to leave work issues at work knowing that Emerson is in good hands with St. Mary's.

For more information on St. Mary's Home and Community Programs, please contact 800-270-2478.

Long Island Board of Realtors is Driven for St. Mary's Kids

After a recent visit to St. Mary's, Laura Copersino, President of the North East Queens Chapter of the Long Island Board of Realtors® (LIBOR) and Rosalie Labbate, Charity Committee Chair, were determined to help the 4,000 children with special needs who St. Mary's cares for each day at the Hospital, at home, and in the community.

LIBOR, the largest local Realtor® Board in the country serving 23,000 real estate professionals throughout Nassau, Suffolk and Queens, teamed up to help support St. Mary's Vehicular Access to Neighborhoods (V.A.N.) Program, a mobile health-care program designed to bring specialized medical and rehabilitative care into the homes of children with special needs, including those in difficult-to-serve neighborhoods throughout the New York Metropolitan area.



One of LIBOR's generous check presentations. (L-R) Rosalie Labbate, LIBOR NE Queens Charity Chair; Joe Sinnona, LIBOR Public Relations Chair; Moses Seuram, LIBOR VP; Queens County; Jan Mittan, St. Mary's VP; Angela Sculti, Director, Corporate Relations; and Laura Copersino, LIBOR Director.



LIBOR members show their support and team spirit at the unveiling of St. Mary's newly wrapped V.A.N.

But their generosity and commitment didn't stop there. To demonstrate their ongoing dedication to children with special needs, LIBOR signed on as a Guardian Sponsor of the Walk for St. Mary's Kids and recently named St. Mary's the beneficiary of the 21st Annual LIBOR Education Conference and Trade Show in June. The incredible group of real estate pros presented St. Mary's with gifts totaling over \$30,000 to support vital programs and services.

Thank you for being our champion!

St. Mary's Awards and Honors

St. Mary's Rehabilitation Center for Children Tops the Charts

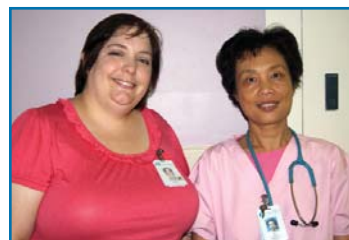
St. Mary's Rehabilitation Center for Children was named one of the top medical facilities among over 50 rehabilitation centers and nursing homes in the lower Hudson Valley region and surrounding areas. The Ossining facility received 5 stars across the board for the overall care of our patients in a recent survey compiled by the Centers for Medicare and Medicaid Services and announced in *The Journal News*. Congratulations to all staff on a job well done!



Caring and competent staff help earn a perfect score for St. Mary's Rehabilitation Center.

Nursing and Rehab Staff Earn Board Recognition

Several of St. Mary's clinicians have earned highly-coveted Board recognition in their fields, an accomplishment that enhances the quality of care they provide for the children of St. Mary's Healthcare System for Children.



Heather Painter, RN and Judy Liang, RN are among the many staff members who have furthered their training and obtained specialized credentials in their fields.

Bency Mathew, RN, Assistant Director of Nursing; Heather Painter, RN, CHPN, Manager of Staff Development; and Judy Liang, RN, successfully passed the Pediatric Nursing Certification Boards, earning them the credential of Certified Pediatric Nurses (CPN). Nurses who achieve this level of distinction have extensive experience in pediatric practice and demonstrate knowledge and abilities related to pediatric nursing that extend beyond basic RN licensure.

Adam Kolesar, SLP, Clinical Manager of Speech and Language, became a Board Recognized Specialist in Swallowing and Swallowing Disorders by the American Speech-Language-Hearing Association. John Paul Rincon, PT, Clinical Specialist, earned the title of Pediatric Certified Specialist (PCS) in Physical Therapy by the American Board of Physical Therapy Specialties and the American Physical Therapy Association.

St. Mary's Rolls Out HIGH-5 Employee Recognition Program

St. Mary's is pleased to announce the launch of HIGH-5, an employee recognition program that motivates, empowers, and rewards top performers. Active employees can be nominated for a HIGH-5 by displaying any of the HIGH-5 values: helpfulness, innovation, going the extra mile, and handling challenges. Nomination forms are available at both inpatient facilities and on our website and can be submitted by co-workers, patient families, volunteers, managers, or vendors. For more information, contact high5@stmaryskids.org.



2009 Walk for St. Mary's Kids



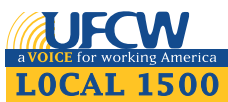
A groundswell of community support turned the 6th Annual Walk for St. Mary's Kids and Family Fun

Day into a grassroots success. Held May 17 in historic Belmont Park in Elmont, NY, the park was bustling with over 2000 enthusiastic participants and an all-star line up of sports heroes, including New York Jets Defensive Back Darrelle Revis and top Jockeys Ramon Dominguez, John Velazquez, Maylan Studart, Javier Castellano, and Rudy Rodriguez, who led the walk alongside St. Mary's five Grand Marshals.

But the real superstars of the day were community members and Walk teams who came out in full force to raise awareness for children with special needs and support the programs and services of St. Mary's Healthcare System for Children.

Those unable to attend the Walk for St. Mary's Kids may still participate in a Virtual Walk online at www.stmaryskids.kintera.org/walk09.

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NY Jets' Darrelle Revis greeted fans and Walkers as they crossed the finish line.



Team Katy's Angels walked in honor of Grand Marshal Kaitlyn Coscia with friends, family, and teammates from St. John's University.



St. Mary's kids and families in the Winner's Circle following the running of the 2nd Annual Race for St. Mary's Kids at Belmont.



The Knights of Columbus team from Flushing hosted several events and fundraisers leading up to Walk day.



The Portnoy family and friends' team, Zachy's Dolphins, make the Walk a yearly tradition to honor the memory of Zachary Portnoy.



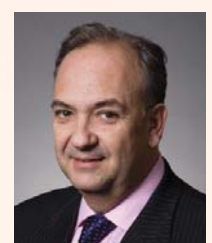
An incredible Family Fun Day followed the Walk with activities including a visit by Mr. Met, NY Islanders Family Fun Fest, arts and crafts, bowling, child fingerprinting stations, live entertainment, and giveaways.



Save the Date

2009 Tribute Dinner "Building Hope, Restoring Lives"

Monday, November 9, 2009 • Gotham Hall, New York City



Honoring
George Leventis
President of Langan International

2009 Tribute Dinner Committee*

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Vincent L. Riso, *Briarwood Organization, Sponsor Chair*

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Joseph Gallitto, *DJ Ambulette Service*

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*committee in formation

Supporting St. Mary's

Thank you
for doing
your part for
the children
of St. Mary's.



Anne Craig of Good Day New York returned to St. Mary's for her annual live broadcast, this time with the cast of Broadway's Altar Boyz and gifts from Toys R Us and Geoffrey the Giraffe.



St. Mary's Junior Committee, a group of young professionals who donate their time and effort to coordinate special events in support of St. Mary's programs and services, raised over \$1600 at a fundraiser held at Porky's NYC in Manhattan.



Families and children of fallen firefighters from the Line of Duty Family Connections program of the FDNY designed and delivered a special mural for the children of St. Mary's.



JIB Lanes brings monthly portable bowling fun to young patients at St. Mary's. As part of the JIB Lanes Cares Program, bowlers have raised over \$20,000 in support of St. Mary's kids.



For the 3rd year in a row, Goldman Sachs employees took a break from the office to help spice up St. Mary's garden with budding plants and colorful flowers. The project was headed by Erin Murphy and Alex Field and participants Laura Field and Kara Dunn, all of St. Mary's Junior Committee.

Make a Difference for Me 2009 St. Mary's Annual Fund Campaign

Music not only lifts the spirit, it also has proven healing powers. At St. Mary's, Music Therapy is an integral part of rehabilitation and is used in conjunction with occupational, speech, and physical therapy to help achieve incredible outcomes. A generous grant of \$30,000 by Starlight Children's Foundation will help ensure that music therapy continues to aid in our children's recovery.

When you give to St. Mary's, your gift makes a significant difference in the lives of children with special healthcare needs. So many of our ground-breaking programs – like Music Therapy – as well as important support services, which are essential to the well-being of St. Mary's kids and families, rely upon your philanthropic support.

Make a difference today! Please contact St. Mary's Healthcare System for Children at 718-281-8890 to learn how you can help St. Mary's continue to provide the finest pediatric rehabilitative care to 4,000 children and families each day.

Thank you for your support and for making a difference for St. Mary's kids.



Starlight Children's Foundation and St. Mary's kids are joined by Queens Borough President Helen Marshall for a demonstration of the healing power of music.



Music Therapy is used in conjunction with other rehabilitative therapies at St. Mary's to achieve great outcomes with children.

Support St. Mary's!

Join one of our giving societies or committees and help us continue to expand our programs and services.

President's Circle

The President's Circle is a giving society that recognizes individuals and private family foundations who make annual gifts of \$1,000 and above. By making a yearly commitment, you lead by example, make a difference in a child's life, and help to shape St. Mary's future.

In recognition of your support, you will be listed on our annual Honor Roll of Donors and invited to our President's Circle Annual Reception.

Legacy Society

Benefactors who provide support for St. Mary's in their estate plans become members of St. Mary's Legacy Society. These individuals help ensure a legacy of the best post-acute care for future generations of children.

Junior Committee

Join a spirited and socially-responsible group of young professionals who want to make a difference for children with special healthcare needs. The Junior Committee is dedicated to creating a community and a network for members to meet, learn, exchange ideas, and contribute to each other's success, while serving the mission of St. Mary's.

Find out more! Call the Development office at 718-281-8890.

The Scoop: What's Happening at St. Mary's

[Laughter Really is the Best Medicine!]

Patients and staff of St. Mary's Hospital for Children are trying a new remedy that is sure to help them feel better and bring a smile to their faces. The Laughter Club is a healing arts therapy program created to stimulate laughter through exercises and activities that promote physical, emotional, psychological, and spiritual healing. The newest addition to the healthy fun is a Laughter Cart, funded by *each one counts foundation* as part of their generous grant in support of complementary care. The cart is filled with special toys that have been uniquely adapted for special needs children, joke books, hilarious movies, chattering teeth and more, all designed to help lift children's spirits.



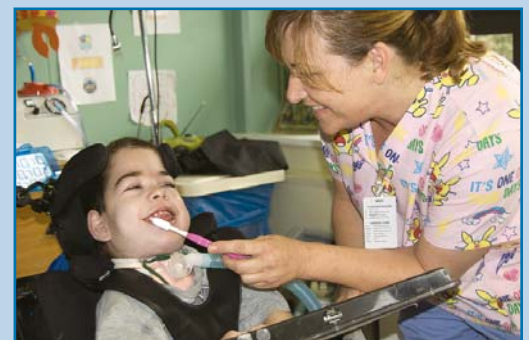
[St. Mary's Programs Make a Splash Overseas]



St. Mary's is known internationally as a model of compassionate care for children with special needs. In January, Dr. Eddie Simpser, St. Mary's Executive Vice President, Chief Operating Officer and Chief Medical Officer, presented Grand Rounds on "Pediatric Palliative Care; The New Paradigm" at Hadassah Medical Center in Israel. Impressed by the scope of the life-affirming program, clinicians at Hadassah are eager to visit St. Mary's to learn more about our pioneering programs and services and how they can be implemented in Israel.

[St. Mary's Kids Brush Up on Dental Care]

St. Mary's launched an innovative program to address the unique oral care needs of children with special needs. The Fresh Smiles Program is a multidisciplinary oral-hygiene campaign that seeks to improve the quality of oral care received by the children as well as foster a child's participation in his oral-care regime. Rolled out to inpatient and Pediatric Day Healthcare children, the program features individualized oral-care kits and games centered on adopting healthy oral-care practices.



[Keeping Parents Informed and Involved]



St. Mary's Case Management Department has developed a series of quarterly educational workshops to help families navigate important issues concerning special needs children. The first workshop held in March was focused on "The Aging Out Process" and the various program options available to families as children reach the age of 18.

St. Mary's also hosted our second "Advocacy Training for Parents" in conjunction with the NYS Developmental Disabilities Planning Council in June. This workshop focused on resources for medically fragile children. Look for upcoming parent workshops on our website at www.stmaryskids.org.

[Heads Up on Head Health]

St. Mary's orchestrated a comprehensive campaign to promote brain injury awareness and prevention in our communities. Of all injuries, traumatic brain injury is the leading cause of death and disability in children and young adults in the U.S. Our multi-faceted campaign included the development of age-appropriate educational materials distributed to NYC and LI schools, lectures to healthcare professionals, car seat and bike helmet fittings, a content-rich website and electronic newsletter, and public service announcements with Head Health tips airing on 106.7 NY's LiteFM.





St. Mary's

Kidsnews

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If you would like your name removed from the mailing list, please write to St. Mary's Healthcare System for Children, 29-01 216th Street, Bayside, New York 11360

St. Mary's Kidsnews

Kids Helping Kids

St. Mary's Walk Grand Marshals

St. Mary's would like to thank our extraordinary Grand Marshals and their families for their incredible support. You are an inspiration!



Elizabeth Kessler



Kaitlyn Coscia



Christopher Alvarez



James Kelly



Daquana Purnell

If there is one thing for certain, St. Mary's kids are incredible. Take for example our five Grand Marshal children – each has overcome extraordinary obstacles with grace, tenacity, and amazing “can-do” attitudes.

Elizabeth was never expected to walk or talk due to oxygen loss and seizures at birth. Yet, at 4 she dances and sings all day at St. Mary's preschool. Kaitlyn has endured multiple strokes before the age of 4, yet her determination and love for life are contagious to all around her. Christopher was born with a rare form of dwarfism that claims the lives of most children in their first year. Yet at 11, he is a force to be reckoned with in his power wheelchair. James was the unfortunate victim of a head injury from a scooter accident. Yet he has found the drive and encouragement to relearn to walk and talk all over again at 15 in St. Mary's Traumatic Brain Injury program. And being born with Cerebral Palsy hasn't slowed 14-year old Daquana down one bit – she can be found in St. Mary's Pediatric Day Healthcare Program honing her cooking skills and working on her physical therapy.

Each of these children represents the thousands of kids St. Mary's cares for each day in our inpatient, home, and community programs. These are St. Mary's kids and we couldn't be more proud.

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To learn how you can make a difference, please contact St. Mary's Healthcare System for Children 718.281.8890 • www.stmaryskids.org

Save the Date

St. Mary's 23rd Annual Golf Outing

Monday, September 21, 2009 – North Hills Country Club, Manhasset, NY

Honoring Henry E. Lievre of Hunter Roberts Interiors

For information and sponsorship opportunities, contact Michelle Gutmann at 718-281-8865 or mgutmann@stmaryskids.org.

2009 Tribute Dinner

Monday, November 9, 2009 – Gotham Hall, NYC

Honoring George E. Leventis, President of Langan International

For information and sponsorship opportunities, contact Gail Fass at 718-281-8816 or gfass@stmaryskids.org.

7th Annual Walk for St. Mary's Kids & Family Fun Day

Sunday, May 16th, 2010 – Belmont Park, Elmont, NY

For information and sponsorship opportunities, contact Angela Sculti at 718-281-8817 or asculti@stmaryskids.org.